REMARKS

This application contains claims 55-105. Claims, 55, 71, 79, 94 and 102 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 55-57, 59-64, 66-71, 79-81, 83-87, 89-94 and 102-104 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Hunt (U.S. Patent 6,496,855). Independent claims 55, 79 and 102 have been amended to further clarify the distinction of the claimed invention over the cited art. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 68-78, 91-101, 104 and 105. Dependent claims 71 and 94 has been amended to correct typographical errors.

Hunt describes a Web site registration proxy system, in which a registration agent site serves as an intermediary between an Internet user and other sites. The agent allows users to register with new sites automatically and to move between registered sites via a single interface (abstract). A registration processing system is responsible for submitting user data to new sites, and includes the functionality of identifying and resolving conflicts between the user's privacy preferences and the site's policies (col. 5, lines 34-45).

Claim 55, as amended, recites a computer-implemented method for privacy management that permits an enterprise to assign different, respective privacy policies to different Web pages on the same Web site, which belongs to the enterprise. Different portions of the information that a user exchanges with the Web site are subject to different privacy policies, depending on the Web page through which the information is exchanged with the enterprise. Hunt neither teaches nor suggests a method by which different privacy policies can be maintained and applied on different pages in the same Web site of the same enterprise, as required by claim 55.

In the Examiner's response to this argument in the present Official Action, the Examiner stated that "Hunt uses the registration agent to query the forms requested for registration," and "the 'forms' are interpreted to have the same meaning as 'Web pages'...." This interpretation is questionable at best, since claim 55 recites "a linked collection of Web pages... on a Web site," and Hunt makes no suggestion of links between his forms. Even if the Examiner's interpretation were conceded to be tenable, however, Hunt makes no suggestion that different forms on the same Web site might have different privacy policies assigned to them, as would be required by claim 55

under this interpretation. On the contrary, in Hunt's Site Data Requirements (col. 6, lines 6-31), he notes that a site may include multiple forms (line 12) and differentiates between the URI and data fields of different forms (lines 15-27), but mentions only "the site's data privacy policies" (line 13), without differentiating in this respect between different forms.

The Examiner then went on to state that "Hunt explains how a user can specify what information can be release[d] to a site and how different fields in the form or forms used can have different privacy policies attached." This statement is self-contradictory and incorrect. The user of Hunt's system is able to choose an "information policy" to apply to each of a number of different categories of information (col. 7, lines 52-65). This policy will control what information is released to each site, based on that site's privacy policy. Filling in the forms in this manner, however, does not determine or change the privacy policies that are attached to the forms. The forms are always subject to the privacy policy of the Web site, whether or not the registration agent fills out the forms or decides not to release the user information. Again, Hunt makes no suggestion of assigning different privacy policies to different elements in an enterprise Web site, whether these elements are forms or Web pages.

Turning to the specific grounds of rejection of claim 55, the Examiner maintained that the step of "assigning respective, non-uniform privacy policies to at least some of the Web pages" on a Web site maintained by an enterprise is disclosed by Hunt in col. 7, lines 52-65. As noted above, this passage refers to information policies chosen by the user to apply to different categories of user data. The privacy policies that are assigned to the Web pages are neither determined nor changed by the user choices. Furthermore, in order to clarify the distinction of the claimed invention over Hunt, Applicant has amended claim 55 to state explicitly that the enterprise that maintains the Web site, and not the user, assigns the non-uniform privacy policies.

The Examiner went on to identify the step of "providing to the user... the respective privacy policies for the first and second Web pages" with col. 6, line 53, through col. 7, line 31, in Hunt. In fact, the cited passage refers to the user profile, which holds the user's privacy preferences, and makes no mention or suggestion of providing different Web page privacy policies to the user.

As Applicant has pointed out in the past, MPEP 2131 states:

> TO ANTICIPATE A CLAIM, THE REFERENCE MUST TEACH EVERY ELEMENT OF THE CLAIM. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California* ,814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)... "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co* ., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Hunt is very far from showing the "identical invention" to claim 55. Therefore, claim 55 is believed to be patentable over the cited art. In view of the patentability of claim 55, claims 56, 57, 59-64, 66 and 67, which depend from claim 55, are also believed to be patentable.

Claim 68 recites a computer-implemented method for privacy management in which nodes in a body of information are assigned privacy rules hierarchically. Each node (except the root node) has one or more ancestors in the hierarchy, and at least some of the nodes have their own respective privacy rules. The computer computes the specific privacy policy for any given node by combining the privacy rules assigned to the given node with the privacy policies of the ancestor nodes of the given node in the hierarchy. Hunt neither teaches nor suggests any sort of method for computation of privacy policies by combining privacy rules from different sources, and he certainly fails to suggest combining privacy rules over a group of root and ancestor nodes in a hierarchy.

In the Examiner's response to this argument in the present Official Action, the Examiner asserted that "computing" has the same meaning as "determining" [privacy policy], and that the "multiple nodes" recited in the claim have the same meaning as the fields in Hunt's forms (page 3, lines 2-4, in the Official Action). This assertion of equivalence is without foundation, since there is no hint in Hunt that the fields in the forms are somehow arranged in a hierarchy, with root nodes and ancestor nodes as required by claim 68. Furthermore, claim 68 recites a specific method of computing privacy policy: by combining the privacy rules assigned to the given node with those assigned to its ancestor nodes. Since Hunt's fields have no defined hierarchy or

ancestors, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have been able to arrive at such a method based on the system described in Hunt.

In the specific grounds of rejection of claim 68 (page 7 in the Official Action), the Examiner stated that the "root node" recited in the claim is the "same as 'core profile'" in Hunt, and that the "ancestor nodes" are the "same as 'site specific profile'" in Hunt. This interpretation of Hunt contradicts the Examiner's own earlier interpretation, mentioned above, in which the "nodes" recited in the claim were equated with the fields in Hunt's forms. In any case, neither interpretation identifies nodes that have a hierarchy or root and ancestor nodes. It would appear that in the specific grounds of rejection, the Examiner has asserted that Hunt's "site specific profile" is somehow the ancestor of Hunt's "core profile," but there is no foundation in Hunt to support the existence of such a relationship.

The Examiner then went on to maintain that the step of "computing a node privacy policy" is shown by Hunt in col. 6, lines 6-43. This passage describes how Site Data Requirements (SDR) are determined and stored in a registration profile database. The SDR includes the site's data privacy policies (line 13). The cited passage does not contain the slightest hint that such the SDR (or any privacy policies) are computed by combining the privacy rules of different nodes, let alone combining the privacy policy of a node with those of its ancestor nodes, as required by claim 68.

Therefore, claim 68 is believed to be patentable over the cited art. In view of the patentability of claims 68, claims 69-71, which depend from claim 68, are also believed to be patentable.

Notwithstanding the patentability of independent claims 55 and 68, the dependent claims are also believed to recite independently-patentable subject matter. For the sake of brevity, Applicant will refrain from arguing the patentability of every one of the dependent claims, but a number of examples will be presented below.

Claim 60 depends from claim 55 and refers to a user who has exchanged information with a first Web page on an enterprise Web site, subject to the privacy policy that is assigned to the first Web page. Claim 60 adds the limitation that this user is informed of a difference in the privacy policy assigned to a second Web page relative to that of the first Web page before the user exchanges further information with the second Web page. In rejecting this claim, the Examiner cited col. 5, lines 44-45, in Hunt. This passage refers to "identifying and resolving conflicts between the user's

privacy preferences and the site's policies." Hunt makes no suggestion that there might be differences in the privacy policies assigned to different Web pages on the site, and thus does not even hint that a user might be informed of these differences after exchanging information with a first Web page on the site, as required by claim 60. Therefore, claim 60 is believed to be independently patentable.

Claim 61 depends from claim 55 and adds the limitation that when a change is made in the privacy policy assigned to a Web page, a user who has already exchanged information with that Web page subject to the previous privacy policy is informed of the change. In rejecting this claim, the Examiner cited col. 3, lines 52-67, in Hunt. The cited paragraph describes the functions of the registration agent site, which provides a central repository of all personal information that a user is prepared to give out to Web sites. Hunt makes no mention of changes in site (or page) privacy policies. He therefore cannot be taken to suggest a step of informing a user of such a change, let alone informing a user who has already submitted information to the site. Therefore, claim 61 is believed to be independently patentable.

Claim 67 depends from claim 55 and adds the limitation that different user classes are defined, and different privacy policies are defined for the same Web page to apply to the different user classes. In rejecting this claim, the Examiner cited col. 7, lines 52-65. This passage refers to grouping of user information belonging to a single, given user. Hunt makes no mention of different user classes, and thus does not even faintly suggest that different user classes might be subject to different privacy policies on the same Web page. Therefore, claim 67 is believed to be independently patentable.

Claim 71 depends from claim 68 and adds the limitation that the privacy rules assigned to each node are represented as policy sections, which are written in XML and comprise an attribute identifying the parent of the node. In rejecting this claim, the Examiner cited col. 5, line 55, through col. 6, line 5, in Hunt, and maintained (on page 3 of the Official Action) that "instead of XML, HTML is used, the nodes as claimed are another term for the level of policy that the user assigns to a field or attribute of information." Applicant notes that this is the third different reading that the Examiner has applied to the "nodes" recited in the claims and contradicts the reading that the Examiner applied to independent claim 68. In the preceding paragraph of the Official Action, the Examiner interpreted "nodes" as having "the same meaning as the fields in

the forms used in Hunt." Regardless of which interpretation is chosen, however, Hunt still fails to meet all the limitations of the claims.

In the passage cited by the Examiner with respect to claim 71, Hunt describes "a simple way to supply data to sites": The registration agent submits user information to Web sites using HTML forms and HTTP commands. There is no mention in this passage or anywhere else in Hunt that HTML might be used to represent privacy policy sections. Even if there were such a mention, HTML is a different language from XML, with different properties. Furthermore, Hunt neither teaches nor suggests that policy sections written in any markup language might have an attribute identifying a parent node in a hierarchy, as required by this claim. Therefore, claim 71 is believed to be independently patentable.

Claims 79-81, 83-87, 89-94 and 102-104 recite apparatus and computer software products that operate on principles similar to the methods of claims 55-57, 59-64, 66-71. Claims 79-81, 83-87, 89-94 and 102-104 are therefore believed to be patentable for the reasons explained above.

Claims 58, 65, 72-78, 82, 88, 95-101 and 105 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hunt in view of Itabashi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,308,203). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 58, 65, 82 and 88 depend from independent claims 55 and 79. In view of the patentability of these independent claims, as explained above, claims 58, 65, 82 and 88 are also believed to be patentable. Furthermore, claims 58 and 82 recite limitations similar to those of independent claims 72 and 95 and are believed to be independently patentable for the reasons explained below with respect to claim 72.

Independent claim 72 recites a computer-implemented method for privacy management in which an application requesting private user information is queried in order to determine its compliance with the privacy policies subject to which the information in question was received from the user. The query to the application is issued when the application submits its request. In other words, claim 72 recites the sequential steps of intercepting a request from an application and then querying the application to determine compliance before providing user information to the application.

Itabashi describes a method and apparatus for providing user personal information to an information provider by pre-storing the personal information in a

profile database of a server. When the user accesses a service provider device, and the service provider device requests personal information, the request is referred to the server. The server reads the personal information from the database and transfers it to the service provider device (abstract and col. 7, lines 35-65).

In rejecting claim 72, the Examiner cited steps S21 and S27 in Itabashi and col. 4, lines 30-53, as purportedly teaching the step of "intercepting a request from an application." Steps S21 and S27 refer to transfer of a request and control data from the user's terminal device to a proxy as part of a processing operation in which the user receives the provision of a service (col. 8, lines 15-18). These steps have nothing to do with interception of any sort of communications. The cited passage in col. 4 refers to detecting simultaneous access operations made from a user (lines 30-35) and detecting unauthorized access to the personal information (lines 36-40). The purpose of this detection is to prevent another user from making unauthorized use of the personal information recorded in the server (col. 13, lines 3-11).

Thus, even if Itabashi's detection of user communications could be considered "interception," it relates solely to detection of unauthorized access by other users. There is no reason to query these unauthorized users to determine their compliance with privacy policies, since by definition they are in violation of the server's privacy policies and will be denied access immediately. Therefore, a person of ordinary skill in the art could not have learned the step of "intercepting a request from an application" as a precursor to "querying the application to determine compliance... with the privacy policies" from Itabashi. The Examiner acknowledged (page 13, lines 3-4, in the Official Action) that such a teaching is also absent from Hunt.

Consequently, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have been unable and unmotivated to combine the teachings of Hunt and Itabashi to arrive at the method recited in claim 72. This claim is therefore believed to be patentable over the cited art. In view of the patentability of claim 72, dependent claims 73-78 are also believed to be patentable.

Furthermore, these dependent claims are believed to recite independently-patentable subject matter, notwithstanding the patentability of claim 72. For example, claim 74 recites the added limitation that non-uniform privacy policies are associated with different resources of the enterprise. This limitation is similar to the limitations of

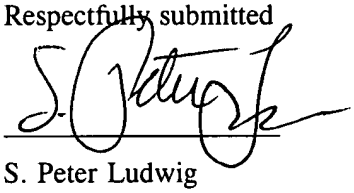
claim 55. As explained above, Hunt neither teaches nor suggests these limitations. Therefore, claim 74 is believed to be independently patentable.

Claims 95-101 and 105 recite apparatus and computer software products that operate on principles similar to the methods of claims 72-78. Therefore, for the reasons explained above with respect to claims 72-78, claims 95-101 and 105 are also believed to be patentable over the cited art.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

Date: December 19, 2005

Respectfully submitted



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